

REMARKS

The Official Action mailed September 1, 2004, has been received and its contents carefully noted. This response is filed within three months of the mailing date of the Official Action and therefore is believed to be timely without extension of time. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully submit that this response is being timely filed.

The Applicants note with appreciation the consideration of the Information Disclosure Statements filed on August 28, 2003.

Claims 1-29 were pending in the present application prior to the above amendment. Dependent claim 28 has been canceled, independent claim 26 has been amended to incorporate the features of claim 28, and dependent claim 5 has been amended to correct a minor typographical error. Accordingly, claims 1-27 and 29 are now pending in the present application, of which claims 1, 6, 11, 14, 20 and 26 are independent. For the reasons set forth in detail below, all claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

The Official Action rejects claims 1-29 under the doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1-18 of U.S. Patent No. 6,639,265 to Arao et al.

As stated in MPEP § 804, under the heading "Obviousness-Type," in order to form an obviousness-type double patenting rejection, a claim in the present application must define an invention that is merely an obvious variation of an invention claimed in the prior art patent, and the claimed subject matter must not be patentably distinct from the subject matter claimed in a commonly owned patent. Also, the patent principally underlying the double patenting rejection is not considered prior art.

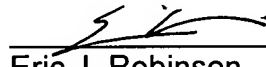
The Applicants respectfully traverse the obviousness-type double patenting rejection because independent claims 1, 6, 11, 14, 20 and 26 of the present application are patentably distinct from the claims of Arao. With respect to independent claims 1, 6 and 11, the claims of Arao do not teach or suggest a column-shape spacer. With respect to independent claims 14 and 20, the claims of Arao do not teach or suggest a pixel thin film transistor in a pixel portion and a storage capacitor in the pixel portion. In

other words, the claims of Arao do not teach or suggest that both the pixel thin film transistor and the storage capacitor include a same semiconductor film. Further, with respect to independent claims 14 and 20, the claims of Arao do not teach or suggest a pixel thin film transistor with an LDD region. With respect to independent claim 26, as amended (and dependent claims 18 and 24), the claims of Arao do not teach or suggest that a concentration of an element in the LDD region is reduced gradually along a direction from an end of the gate electrode toward the channel forming region.

Therefore, the Applicants respectfully submit that the subject application is patentably distinct from the claims of the Arao patent. Reconsideration of the obviousness-type double patenting rejection is requested.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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